

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA

In The Matter Of

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Case No.: 1:24MC 4

\$1,104,460.00 in U.S. CURRENCY,

AGREEMENT TO EXTEND THE FILING DEADLINE

WHEREAS, the United States of America (the “United States”) intends to file a Verified Complaint of Forfeiture alleging that the above-captioned property, is subject to forfeiture pursuant to Title 21, United States Code, Section 881 and/or Title 18, United States Code, Section 981.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and between the United States, and Adriana Jones (the “Claimant”), as follows:

1. The United States and the Claimant, one of the plaintiffs in the civil action in *Miller, et al. v. Juarez Cartel*, United States District Court for the District of North Dakota Civil Action No 1:20-cv-132, agree to extend the deadline for the United States to file judicial forfeiture proceedings against the assets discussed below.

2. Claimant filed more than 1,200 claims in nonjudicial civil forfeiture proceedings initiated by the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”) and Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”).¹ The claim that relates to the asset potentially subject to judicial forfeiture in the Middle District of North Carolina is identified as \$1,104,460.00 in U.S. Currency (“the property”).

¹ The other plaintiffs in *Howard Miller, et al. v. Juarez Cartel* intended to file claims in the DEA and CBP nonjudicial forfeiture proceedings. Since DEA and CBP determined that Claimant was the only plaintiff who filed a timely, valid claim, only her consent is necessary to extend the deadline set out in Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A).



3. DEA and CBP have referred or are in the process of referring the claims to United States Attorney's Offices.

4. Under Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A) and (B), the United States has 90 days from its receipt of a claim in a nonjudicial forfeiture proceeding to initiate a judicial forfeiture proceeding against the properties. This deadline is known as the CAFRA deadline.

5. On November 15, 2023, Claimant agreed to extend to February 29, 2024 the CAFRA deadline for those properties that would otherwise have an earlier CAFRA deadline.

6. On December 29, 2023, Claimant filed additional claims against the remaining properties, including the \$1,104,460.00 in U.S. Currency to the Middle District of North Carolina. Those assets have a March 29, 2024, CAFRA deadline.

7. As provided in Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A), Claimant and the United States have agreed to extend the time within which the United States may file a judicial action for forfeiture against the property to give the parties sufficient time to try to resolve these matters.

8. Claimant knowingly, intelligently, and voluntarily gives up any right she may have under Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A)-(B) to require the United States to file a judicial forfeiture against the properties covered by this agreement on or before the deadline referenced in paragraphs 5 and 6 and any right that she may have to seek dismissal of any civil judicial complaint on the ground that it was not timely filed.

9. Claimant and the United States agree, that in the event Claimant seeks to file an amended claim, the United States will not argue that the amended claim is untimely during the course of the agreed extension. Claimant and the United States further agree, that in the event that Claimant does file an amended claim, and the amended claim filed by Claimant is co-signed by,

and submitted on behalf of, all plaintiffs in *Howard Miller, et al. v. Juarez Cartel*, the United States will not argue that the amended claim of all plaintiffs is untimely during the course of the agreed extension.

10. Claimant has consulted with counsel for the *Miller* plaintiffs, Michael Elsner of Motley Rice and Samuel Mitchel of Mitchell & Mitchell, and counsel has authorized Claimant to represent that counsel also consents to this extension of time.

11. Claimant and the United States agree to extend the deadline by which the United States may timely file a judicial forfeiture against the property until April 30, 2024. In the event the April 30, 2024, deadline is not met, Claimant and the United States agree that Claimant may assert any rights right she may have under Title 18, United States Code, Section 983(a)(3)(A)-(B) to require the United States to file a judicial forfeiture against the property covered by this agreement.

2/22/2024 *Adriana Jones*
Date ADRIANA JONES

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

02/29/2024

Date

SANDRA J. HAIRSTON

United States Attorney

By:



Digitally signed by
NATHANIEL STRUP
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